DC
SUPERMAN.
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS®
563
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 30p
JAN. 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEATURING:
3 FUN-FILLED STORIES!
YOU'RE ON, AMBUSH BUG! THE WINNER GETS TO PUT HIS NAME UP IN PLACE OF SUPERMAN'S ABOVE THE ACTION LOGO!
AW, THAT'S NO BIG DEAL! I ALREADY DID THAT ONCE!
HEY! NO FAIR! YOUR ELBOW'S OFF THE TABLE, MXYZPTLK!
OLSEN! QUIT CHOMPING ON MY FOOT! WAIT YOUR TURN!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOU'RE NOT A BOY BLOB!
THE NEW
DC
THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.
GIFFEN/OKSNER

FRANCIS *THE HORSE* CLOPALONG

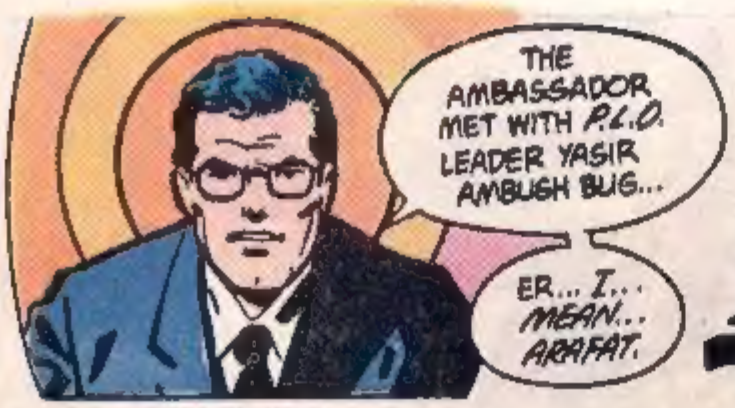
P R E S E N T S

Black Beauty

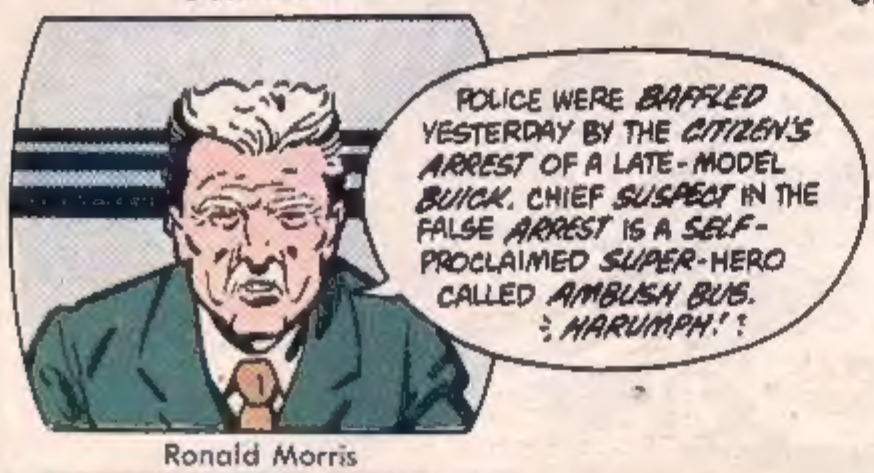
or "A Horse is a Horse, of Course, of Course"

starring

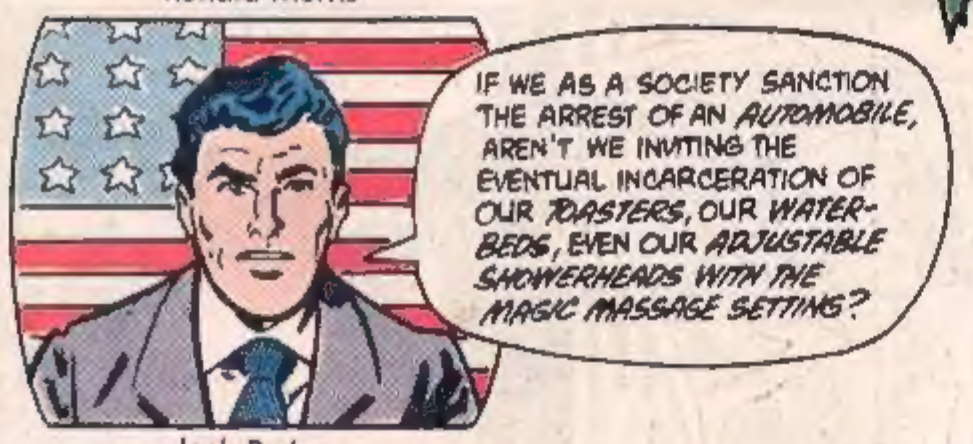
AMBUSH BUG



Clark Kent

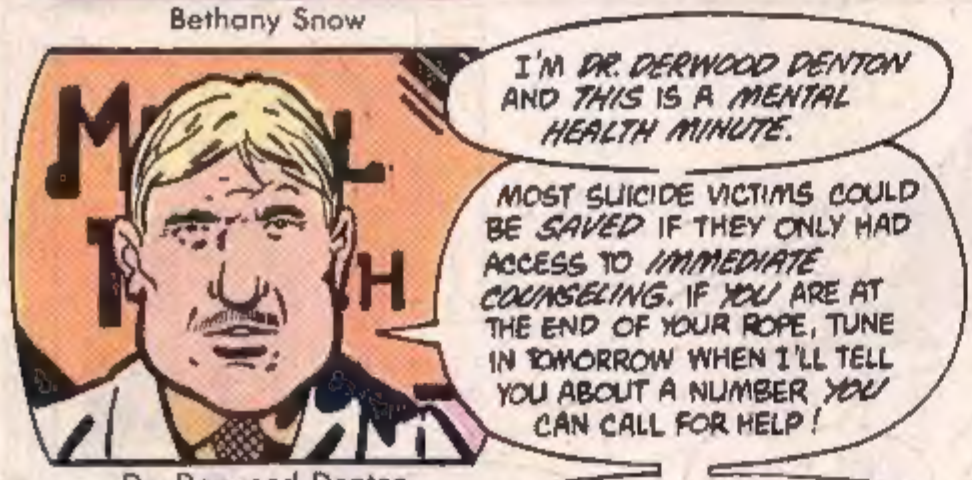

POLICE WERE BAFFLED YESTERDAY BY THE CITIZEN'S ARREST OF A LATE-MODEL BUICK. CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE FALSE ARREST IS A SELF-PROCLAIMED SUPER-HERO CALLED AMBUSH BUG. HARUMPH!

Ronald Morris


IF WE AS A SOCIETY SANCTION THE ARREST OF AN AUTOMOBILE, AREN'T WE INVITING THE EVENTUAL INCARCERATION OF OUR TOASTERS, OUR WATER-BEDS, EVEN OUR ADJUSTABLE SHOWERHEADS WITH THE MAGIC MASSAGE SETTING?

Jack Ryder

Bethany Snow


I'M DR. DERWOOD DENTON AND THIS IS A MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE.
MOST SUICIDE VICTIMS COULD BE SAVED IF THEY ONLY HAD ACCESS TO IMMEDIATE COUNSELING. IF YOU ARE AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE, TUNE IN TOMORROW WHEN I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT A NUMBER YOU CAN CALL FOR HELP!

Dr. Derwood Denton

Ted Baxter

DON'T WORRY, LI'L BABY BUG. I'M GONNA FIX YOU UP AS GOOD AS NEW. AFTER ALL, WITHOUT YOU AND MY OTHER LI'L BUGGIES, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELEPORT FROM PLACE TO PLACE!
HOLD STILL!
CHOKE! POOR LI'L GUY! I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HIM HE'S DOOMED!

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HERE GOES NOTHING!

SKREEEEEEK

AREN'T YOU HUN-GRY? ♫

THIS HAS BEEN A TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCASTING SYSTEM.

LOVE THAT SUPER DUPER!

THE PRESIDENT IS STEPPING UP TO THE PODIUM...

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

POW

POW

POW

POW

OINK

OINK?

MY LI'L BUG! I'VE KILLED HIM! I RUIN EVERYTHING I TOUCH!

YOU'RE A BLOCKHEAD, AMBUSH BROWN!

BUT HEY, I'M RED! THIS IS HIP!

♫ I'M A MANIAC... MANIAC ON THE FLOOR ♫

NOW I'M BLACK!

AW, SPIT!

CUT ME SOME SLACK!

THIS IS JIVE!

SO'S YOUR MOMMA!

IT'S NO USE! I'M LILY WHITE AT HEART!

BUT...MY COSTUME ...IT WON'T COME OFF! I'M TRAPPED!!

GASP!

401

I CAN'T GET IT OFF!!

NOT TO WORRY :HIC: WORRY, PAL. IT HAPPENS :HIC: HAPPENS TO A LOTTA GUYS.

CRIPES, I REMEMBER MY HONEYMOON--

WHY THIS BUG?! I NEVER WENT NEAR THE SECRET WARS!!

WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

SNAP

POP

COSTUME CASTLE

FLIGHT DOWN

CAN I WRAP THAT UP FOR YOU, SIR?

NEIGH!!

NOW I CAN TRAVEL AROUND WITHOUT DRAWING ATTENTION!

HEY! I'VE BEEN TELEPORTING WITHOUT MY LITTLE BUGS!! THE POWER MUST HAVE ALL FUSED INTO MY SUIT!!!

THERE'S NO STOPPING ME NOW!

POP

WHAM

CLOSE... BUT NO CIGAR!

MR. JAMES B. OLSEN, WHOEVER YOU ARE, THE MONEY I COLLECT FOR YOUR TELEVISION SET'S GONNA COME IN *REAL HANDY.*

WHOOOOSH

WHOOOOSH?

YEAH, WHOOOOSH!

SUPERMAN...

PLEASE--*PLEASE* --DON'T *FLY* ME ANYWHERE. I GOT *MOTION* SICKNESS *REAL BAD!*

I WAS A *JOCKEY* AND THIS...THIS *ROGUE HORSE* THREW ME... AND THEN HE *TRAMPLED* ME... AND THEN...

TELL IT TO THE *JUDGE!*

POP

OH, HI.

AAAAHHHH! NOT YOU!!!

WHOOOOSH

GREAT KRYPTON!

HEY YOU... *LETTERER!* IS "WHOOOOSH" THE ONLY SOUND EFFECT YOU *KNOW??*

THAT'S FUNNY. I'VE NEVER GONE "*BOING*" BEFORE.

BOING!

IT'S THE *ROGUE HORSE!!!* H-HE'S TR-TRYING TO-TO *K-KILL* ME!!!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

I THOUGHT YOU HAD MOTION SICKNESS!

OH, YEAH. GAG.

HEY, GUYS, WAIT UP!

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN THAT BALE OF STINKWEED FOR LUNCH.

POLI

YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW. JUST GO OVER AND TELL THE NICE DESK SERGEANT WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

OKAY, SUPERMAN. SORRY ABOUT YOUR CAPE.

IT WAS THAT *HORSE* DONE IT TO ME.

WHY, *HELLO*, WILLLLBURRRR.

AAAAAHHHHH!

THAT *VOICE!*

YOU'RE *AMBUSH BUG!*

NOT FOR LONG.

HOW DOES THE NAME "*BLACK BEETLE*" GRAB YOU?

SEE, FIRST THE BUGS EXPLODE AND I'M, LIKE, ON *FIRE*...

GET TO THE *POINT*, BUG.

I'M *BLACK*, MY MAN!

PHEW! NOT ONLY *THAT*, BUT YOU'VE BEEN EATING *STINK-WEED!*

YEAH, AND I'M AT THE END OF MY *TETHER*, TONTO. SO LISTEN *UP*.

"IT ALL BEGAN ON A DISTANT PLANET IN A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM. THE PLANET SCHWAB WAS A WORLD RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND SODA FOUNTAINS.

"THE PEOPLE OF SCHWAB WERE VERY ADVANCED CULTURALLY AND HELD AWARDS CEREMONIES MUCH LIKE EARTH'S OSCARS OR EMMYS ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS.

"BRUM-EL WAS FOR THREE YEARS RUNNING THE RECIPIENT OF THE IR-WIN AWARD AS SCHWAB'S BEST-DRESSED MAN.

"ONE FATEFUL DAY, BRUM-EL RECEIVED A GALACTIC CHAIN LETTER. THINKING IT TO BE FAN MAIL FROM SOME FLOUNDER, BRUM-EL DISCARDED IT! BAD MOVE!

"HE LIVED TO REGRET HIS MISTAKE! THE HEADLINES WERE BRUTAL: BRUM-EL BREAKS CHAIN, DOOMS PLANET!

"TOO LATE, BRUM-EL REALIZED THAT HE SHOULD HAVE HEEDED THE EXAMPLE OF THE LAST MAN WHO BROKE THE CHAIN— DR. JOR-EL OF KRYPTON.

"BUT WHO WOULD HE CHOOSE? HIS WIFE LARDA?

"OR MAYBE HIS SON, MON-GREL?

"BRUM-EL TO BLAME, COSMIC JERK!

"BRUM-EL RETIRED TO HIS LABORATORY AND QUICKLY CONSTRUCTED A ROCKETSHIP. IT WAS A ONE-SEATER, AND IT WOULD SERVE TO CARRY ONE OF BRUM-EL'S BELOVED FAMILY MEMBERS TO SAFETY.

"BRUM-EL DECIDED TO SAVE HIS WARDROBE INSTEAD.

"SOON THE ENSEMBLES WERE SPINNING TO SAFETY. BRUM-EL, NAKED BUT HAPPY, BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

"IF ONLY HE KNEW! DEEP IN FAR-OUT OUTER SPACE, HIS LITTLE CAPSULE WAS BITTEN BY A GIGANTIC RADIO-ACTIVE SPIDER!!

"THE FRIGHTENED YOUNG ROCKETSHIP LIMPED PITIFULLY INTO THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF THE PLANET EARTH.

"THE CRIPPLED CRAFT SPUTTERED THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE AND INTO THE SKIES OVER METROPOLIS. THERE IT SEARCHED FOR A HOME FOR ITS CARGO OF SUITS AND SLACKS.

"SUDDENLY IT SPOTTED WHAT IT TOOK TO BE A FAMILIAR OBJECT...A WIRE HANGER! NOT AS GOOD AS A WOODEN ONE, OF COURSE, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO DO!"

KERPOW

FUNNY ST

AND THE WINNER OF THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST ROCKETSHIP LANDING IN AN 8-PAGE COMIC BOOK STORY IS...

SQUAWK

UH-OH!

METROPOLIS LIBRARY

"IRWIN SCHWAB WAS RAISED BY A SOLID-STATE TELEVISION SET.

MOMMY?

"IRWIN CLIMBED TO THE ROOF BECAUSE HE COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER TO DO. THERE HE FOUND THE ROCKETSHIP AND ALL OF ITS CONTENTS DESTROYED, EXCEPT FOR ONE ARTICLE.

"IRWIN WAS SUITLESS, BUT HE HAD ALWAYS WANTED ONE, SO HE DECIDED TO ADOPT THE LITTLE UNIFORM AS THOUGH IT WERE HIS OWN.

"ONE DAY, RIGHT AFTER HIS SET BROKE DOWN, IRWIN DECIDED TO BRAVE THE WRITTEN WORD.

"MEANWHILE, BACK ON SCHWAB, THE DISGRACED BRUM-EL WAS ACTUALLY ANTICIPATING THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS WORLD!"

WHO NEEDS IT?? I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS GARBAGE ANYMORE!

AT LEAST MY DOUBLE-BREASTED SEERSUCKER SURVIVED.

WELL, HERE GOES! 7ENNINEEIGHT SEVENSIXFIVEFOUR THREETWOONE--

ZERO.

NUTS!

SO, SUPES, THAT'S THE *TRUE ORIGIN* OF MY DUDS BEFORE I--

EXIT

HE'S *GONE!* OY! NOW I KNOW HOW *COMMISSIONER* GORDON FEELS!

ATTENTION, HORSE IN THE STATION HOUSE!! THROW DOWN YOUR HOOVES, WE'RE COMING IN.!!!

UH-OH! THEY *SHOOT* HORSES, DON'T THEY?

LET'S *GO*, MEN! REMEMBER, BOTH HIS BACK LEGS ARE BROKEN! SHOOT TO KILL AND PUT THE POOR BEAST OUT OF HIS *MISERY!*

BANG POP BANG POP BANG BANG POP POP POP POP

POUC

NOW I'VE HEARD *EVERYTHING.*

PLANET EXPLODING-- FATHER BUILDING A ROCKETSHIP-- SENDING IT OFF TO EARTH-- CONTENTS OF THE ROCKET ADOPTED BY AN EARTHLING--

THAT'S THE *DUMBEST* ORIGIN STORY I'VE EVER HEARD!

THAT'S *MY* ORIGIN!!

SHREEECH

GREAT KRYPTON!

TIME

EARLY SHOW

SHOWS

GOLDEN ANTENNA AWARDS

Best Plot: **Keith Giffen**
Best Pencils: **Keith Giffen**
Best Balloons: **Robert** *The Loren* **Fleming**
Best Inks: **Bob Oksner**
Best Colors: **Anthony Tollin**
Best Letters: **John** *"Whoooooosh"* **Costanza**
Best Edits: **Julius Schwartz**
Best Producer: **Francis** *The Horse* **Clopalong**
Best Music: **Nunzio Clopalong**
Best Make-up: **Guido Clopalong**
Best Spaghetti and Meatballs: **Marietta Clopalong**
Best Rocketship Landing In An 8-Page Comic Book Story...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

"MR. MXYZPTLK, MEDIA STAR!"

E. NELSON BRIDWELL *WRITER*	ALEX SAVIUK *PENCILS*
DENNIS JENSEN *INKS*	BEN ODA *LETTERS*
ANTHONY TOLLIN *COLORS*	JULIUS SCHWARTZ *EDITOR*

THE PLACE: A CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE EIGHTY FLOOR OF THE GALAXY BUILDING. THE OCCASION: A MEETING CHAIRED BY DAILY PLANET EDITOR PERRY WHITE. PRESENT: CLARK KENT, LOIS LANE, AND JIMMY OLSEN...

CIRCULATION'S UP--YES--BUT NOT ENOUGH! EDGE ISN'T SATISFIED, AND NEITHER AM I! YOU THREE HAVE COME UP WITH SOME OF OUR BEST GIMMICKS IN THE PAST--

--SO START RACKING THOSE BRAINS OF YOURS AND PROVE YOU'VE STILL GOT THE STUFF!

THAT *POPPING!* IT SOUNDS LIKE-- *HIM*--APPEARING-- NEARBY!

POP!

S-4455

STRANGE-- NO REACTION FROM THE OTHERS! WHY DIDN'T THEY HEAR IT?

OF COURSE-- ONLY MY *SUPER-HEARING* CAUGHT IT! MEANING HE'S PROBABLY ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING! I'LL GIVE IT AN X-RAY VISION SCAN--!

"THERE HE IS--UP IN MORGAN EDGE'S PENTHOUSE OFFICE--MR. MXYZPTLK!"

DON'T JUST SIT THERE GAPING, MORGAN OL' GORSON! WELCOME YOUR NEW DISCOVERY: THE *GREAT MXYZPTLK*, STAR OF TELEVISION, MOVIES, RECORDS AND ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN THINK OF!

I'M HAVING HALLUCINATIONS-- I *HOPE!*

"NOW HOW DO I GET AWAY TO SWITCH TO SUPERMAN?"

GOT IT! SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM, MIMICKING THAT PEST'S VOICE!

NIYA, *PLANET* PEOPLE! GUESS WHO? *HEE HEE!*

THAT CREEPY LAUGH! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE!

YOU AND ME BOTH, LOIS! WE'VE MET MXYZPTLK OFTEN ENOUGH!

MXYZPTLK--AT THE *PLANET!* C'MON, SEARCH THE WHOLE FLOOR IF YOU HAVE TO-- BUT FIND OUT WHAT MISCHIEF HE'S UP TO!

JIMMY--YOUR *SIGNAL*--*WATCH!*

CHECK! I'LL CALL SUPERMAN!

SOUNDED TO ME LIKE THE IMP WAS CLOSE BY! I'LL STAY *HERE* AND KEEP A LOOKOUT!

ALONE! THEY'LL THINK MXYZPTLK POPPED IN TO BEDEVIL US ON HIS WAY TO SEE EDGE! LATER I'LL TELL JIMMY HIS *SIGNAL* BROUGHT ME AND I SPOTTED THAT PESKY PIXY IN THE PENTHOUSE!

WHAT'S HOLDING THINGS UP, BOSSMAN? BRING ON THE LIFETIME CONTRACT!

HOW ABOUT COMMITMENT PAPERS TO THE NEAREST FUNNY FARM? I *KNOW* STAR MATERIAL, AND YOU'RE STRICTLY FROM THE TURKEY PEN -- RATINGS *POISON!*

SAY NOT SO! A SNAP OF MY MAGICAL FINGERS AND EVERY TV SET ON EARTH WILL HAVE MY SHOW ON THE SCREEN -- EVEN IF IT'S TURNED OFF -- OR *BROKEN!*

THAT'S NOT ONLY UNETHICAL, IT'S *ILLEGAL!*

IF YOU'RE SO ALL-POWERFUL, START YOUR OWN NETWORK AND LEAVE MINE ALONE! I WON'T HAVE YOU TURNING THINGS TOPSY-TURVY!

TOPSY-TURVY, HEY! THAT'S A *GREAT* IDEA!

EEEYIIIII!

YOU INSANE IMP! WE COULD'VE HAD A REALLY *BAD* FALL!

AND YOU CAN'T, EH, SUPE, OL' DROOP?

AW! HE FAW UP AN' GO *BOOM!*

WHAM!

AND BEST OF ALL I GOT IT ON *TAPE!*

BYE-BYE, STUPORMAN! SEE YOU ON THE BOOB TUBE!

WHY DOES THAT MANIAC INSIST ON HORNING IN ON *MY* MEDIA?

THAT'S OBVIOUS! I AM HIS WORST ENEMY! I'M ON GBS NEWSCASTS, IN THE *DAILY PLANET*--

--YOU PUBLISH BOOKS ABOUT ME, MAKE SUPERMAN MOVIES! HE'S *JEALOUS*--AND WANTS *IN* WHERE I AM!

TOO BAD HE'S NOT LIKE HIS BIZARRO DOUBLE, *KLTPZYXM!* THAT CHARACTER'S H S *OPPOSITE*--AND DOES *GOOD* DEEDS!

COMES THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS..

AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS TONIGHT...

...IS YOURS TRULY, *MXYZPTLK THE MAGNIFICENT,* WITH AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT HOW I MADE A SAP OUT OF SUPERMAN--AS USUAL!

OUT--*OUT!* YOU'RE *NOT* SCHEDULED FOR THIS NEWSCAST!

AH! DIRECTOR JOSHUA COYLE, I PRESUME!

YOU BET--AND MY DIRECTION IS--*OFF THE SET,* YOU LOONEY!

RIGHT BACK AT YOU--*GO CHASE YOURSELF!*

HEE HEE! I SEE *YOU'RE* GOOD AT FOLLOWING *MY* DIRECTIONS!

GREAT GUNS! THAT'S *ME*--BACK THERE--*CHASING MYSELF!*

SOON AFTER, IN CLARK KENT'S OFFICE AT THE PLANET...

THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THAT IMP IS TO TRICK HIM INTO SAYING HIS NAME BACKWARDS! IT SENDS HIM BACK TO HIS FIFTH DIMENSIONAL WORLD FOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS!

HE WANTS A CONTRACT -- I'LL GIVE HIM ONE -- BUT WITH HIS NAME IN REVERSE--

-CONTRACT- GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS

MR. MXYZPTLK

GREAT SCOTT! NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T WRITE IT BACKWARDS!

IS IT ONLY ME, OR--?

LOIS, I WANT TO TRY A LITTLE--ER-- GAME! GOT A MIRROR?

WHAT WOMAN DOESN'T?

HERE'S YOUR NAME--AND IT'S MIRROR-IMAGE! I CHALLENGE YOU TO WRITE IT THE WAY IT'S REFLECTED!

LOIS

NO PROBLEM!

STRANGE--IT COMES OUT "LOIS" EVEN WHEN I TRY TO WRITE "LOIS"--?!

AMAZING! I CAN'T EVEN SAY MY NAME BACKWARDS!

AND NEITHER CAN ANYONE ELSE!

IT'S MXYZPTLK--RIGHT? YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO TRICK HIM AND FOUND HE'D CAST THIS SPELL!

DON'T WORRY-- ME MAY FAIL, BUT SUPERMAN WILL FIND A WAY! HE ALWAYS DOES!

LATER THAT EVENING, CLARK AND LOIS ARE AMONG GUESTS AT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF GALAXY PICTURES' LATEST CINEMATIC BLOCKBUSTER...

ASTOR

ALL'S SERENE SO FAR -- BUT IF I KNOW MXYZPTLK, HE WON'T PASS UP THIS CHANCE TO TOSS A CLOD IN EDGE'S CHURN!

THE MOVIE BEGINS -- A GRIPPING MYSTERY. FINALLY, AS THE DETECTIVE HERO OPENS A STRANGE PACKAGE...

HEY, WHAT GIVES? THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE PICTURE!

HEE HEE! NO-1 DID A LAST-MINUTE *REWRITE!*

YEAH? WELL, I WON'T HAVE YOU MUSCLING IN ON MY MOVIE!

WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT, SHAMUS?

LOOKS LIKE MY CUE TO SLIP AWAY AND MAKE A COSTUME-SWITCH!

CARE TO STEP OUTSIDE AND SETTLE THIS?

YOU *GOT* IT!

THERE'LL BE A SLIGHT DELAY, FOLKS, WHILE WE DECIDE WHO GETS STAR BILLING!

LOOKIT! THAT'S *ME* -- COMING OUT OF THE PICTURE!

NO, IT'S NOT, STUPID! *I'M* THE CHARACTER YOU PLAYED IN THE MOVIE!

HEE HEE HEE! I *LOVE* IT!

CUT THE CHUCKLES OR I'LL CREAM YOU RIGHT HERE!

HOLD IT, PRIVATE EYEBALL! HERE COMES SOMEONE ELSE WITH THE SAME IDEA!

HOWEVER, HE'S JUST -- *PASSING THROUGH!*

THE IMP'S *VANISHING*-- AND I'M GOING *RIGHT THROUGH THE SCREEN!*

NEXT DAY, AS MORGAN EDGE RECUPERATES FROM THE DISASTROUS PREMIERE...

HERE'S THE NEW *GALAGIRL*-- HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

HAND IT HERE!

LET'S SEE HOW THE CENTERFOLD PRINTED UP!

GALAGIRL

HI! THE LITTLE LADY STEPPED OUT AND I AGREED TO HOLD HER PLACE!

DID I GET YOU A LITTLE *EGGY*? SO SORRY! HEE HEE HEE!

RIP!

GALAGIRL

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, MXYZPTLK SHOWS UP AT VARIOUS EVENTS COVERED BY BOSS NEWS - SINGING AT THE MISS METROPOLIS PAGEANT...

EEEK! I AM! GET ME DOWN!

NOW SHE'S WALKING ON AIR...

METROPOLIS

AT THE KICKOFF OF A BIG FOOTBALL GAME...

ELEVEN MEN AFTER A SINGLE FOOTBALL? I'LL GIVE 'EM ONE APIECE!

AT A POLITICAL RALLY...

YOU ALL KNOW THE KIND OF CONGRESS-MAN I'VE BEEN!

AND IF YOU DON'T, THIS WILL GIVE YOU A HINT!

AND AT A SWIM MEET...

HEY -- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE WATER?

IT'S TURNED TO -- STRAWBERRY GELATIN?!

FINALLY, IN BOSS'S OFFICE...

THAT MIDGET MENACE IS TURNING EVERY MEDIA EVENT INTO A LAUGHINGSTOCK!

YOU KNOW HIM BEST, SUPERMAN! ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO GET RID OF HIM?

WELL, I'VE BEEN RACKING MY BRAIN AND THINK I --

-- HAVE IT! -- A FOOL-PROOF SCHEME!

SNAP!

THAT EVENING, AS MORGAN EDGE HOSTS A NATIONWIDE CHARITY TELETHON...

AND NOW -- SUPERMAN -- DOING A FIRE-EATING ACT WHILE JUGGLING *TWO* MASSIVE BARBELLS AND A SAFE!

GALAXYTHON

LET'S MAKE THAT SAFE *HEAVIER* WITH YOUR DONATIONS!

UH-OH! THE FIRE'S TURNED TO *ICE CREAM* AND THE WEIGHTS TO *BALLOONS!*

WHICH COULD ONLY BE THE WORK OF--

YOU *WERE* GOING TO SAY *MXYZPTLK*, WEREN'T YOU?

CERTAINLY -- THE GUEST OF HONOR! AND HERE'S A LITTLE SURPRISE FROM THE *GBS* NEWS-TAPES:

WITH, MAGNIFICENT THE MXYZPTLK, TRULY YOURS IS...

YOU GOOFED AGAIN, SUPIE! RUNNING THE TAPE *BACKWARD* STILL CAN'T MAKE THE *WORDS* COME OUT THAT WAY -- ONLY THEIR *ORDER!* Y'SEE, I CAST THIS *SPELL*...

ALL RIGHT -- *I GIVE UP!*

YES, MXYZPTLK, YOU WIN! AND SEE -- WE PREPARED A POSTER FOR YOUR NEW SHOW!

MXYZPTLK GREATER THAN CHAPLIN! GREATER THAN THE MARX BROTHERS! GREATER THAN KLTPZYXM!

OH, IT'S *LOVELY!* 'GREATER THAN CHAPLIN -- THE MARX BROTHERS -- KLTPZYXM...

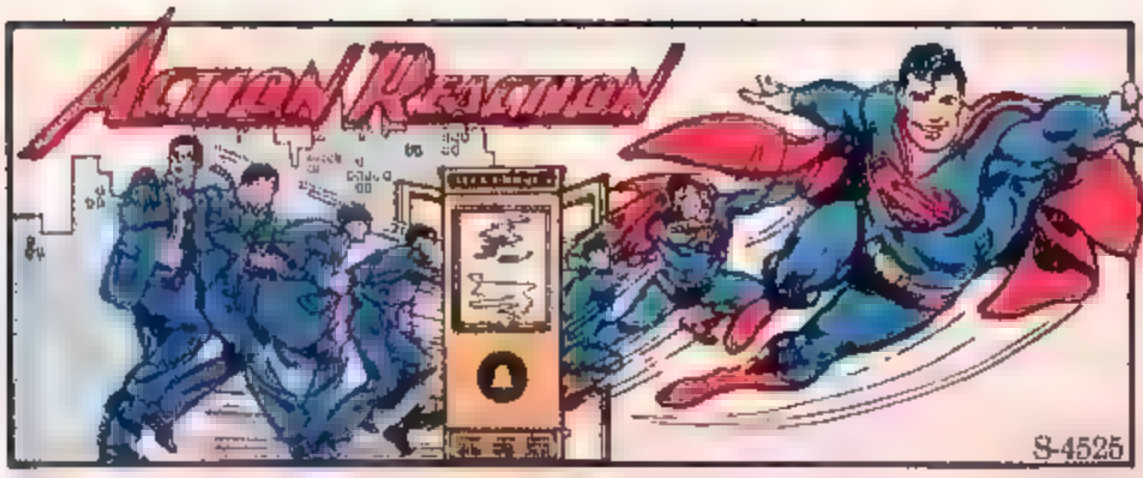
MXYZPTLK REATER THA CHAPLIN! REATER THAN THE MARX BROTHERS! GREATER THAN KLTPZYXM!

NO! THAT WAS MY NAME -- *BACKWARDS!* BUT YOU *COULDN'T* HAVE! HOW--?

CONGRATULATIONS, SUPERMAN!

THANKS! I KNEW I HAD HIM WHEN I RECALLED HAVING *SPOKEN* THE NAME OF *BIZARRO-KLTPZYXM!* THAT MEANT I *COULD* SAY OR WRITE *HIS* NAME *FORWARD* -- AND IT'S *MXYZPTLK* IN *REVERSE!*

the End



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Julie and Bob,

Obviously, the lead story in *ACTION COMICS* #558 makes reference to the underground coal mine fire that has been burning beneath Centralia, Pennsylvania, for more than twenty years. It wasn't until the end of May that legislation was passed for the state to begin purchasing the homes of the town's residents. By the beginning of June, 25 families had accepted or were considering the offer. It's a pity there doesn't really exist a being such as *Superman* to solve the problem.

KEITH DRAWBAUGH
4003 Old Orchard Rd.
York, PA 17402

Indeed it is, Keith, but it didn't stop David Iseman, a reporter for the Press-Enterprise *in Bloomsburg, PA, from making front-page news out of* Superman's *trip to "Coaltown." Iseman, after seeing the story in* ACTION, *tracked down yours truly in Montreal (where I was okaying the printing job of* THE MEDUSA CHAIN, *DC's latest Graphic Novel) for an interview. Iseman also spoke to artist Kurt Schaffenberger and the next thing we knew, we were on the front page of the paper—with the headline: SUPERMAN SAVES CENTRALIA. It looked more like a front-page of* The Daily Planet *than a real-world newspaper! The story was also picked up by UPI and appeared in various papers around Pennsylvania and by radio station WBBF in Rochester, New York, on which I was interviewed live one morning in early July. The most surprising thing about the whole story? That one of the plans to extinguish the long-burning fire is the drilling of bore holes to act as fire-breaks, something not that far off from the way* Superman *solved the problem in the story!*

And with that postscript on #558 out of the way, onward to your comments about #559.—BR

*****

Dear Julie,

ACTION COMICS #559 was by far the best issue since your format change was initiated. Both stories were excellent, splendid examples of the comic book medium doing what it does best—telling exciting tales of heroic adventure which are pure fun to read.

Bob Rozakis managed to include human interest also in "The Once-and-Future Peri(l)" with Clark and Lana making more than token appearances. And his portrayal of Alvin and Loretta Grant made them an interesting and thoroughly believable couple. I missed the *Yellow Peri's* appearance in *SUPERBOY* and this story made me regret not having followed that book regularly.

Paul Kupperberg worked wonders (not for the first time) with 8 pages of hugely enjoyable super-action and a neat gimmick to hook my interest in "A Superman of a Different Color." The artwork of Alex Saviuk and Dennis Janssen improves with each showing and this example even surpasses the Schaffenberger/Hunt art on the first story! Colorist Gene D'Angelo did a superb job too, especially with the scenes on the alien planet.

So, with an eyecatching cover, *ACTION* #559 rates as an outstanding success. If issues like this outnumber flops, Stephen Scott Beau Smith won't be the only reader who has reason to welcome the fun back to comics.

DALE COE
41 Whitecross Rd.
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

*****

Dear Editor,

ACTION #559 came as a pleasant surprise to me: The return of a *Superboy* foe, the *Yellow Peri*, now an adult and with a better costume, plus art by Kurt Schaffenberger and Dave Hunt.

One of the qualities of *SUPERBOY* was its small-town feel and part of that feeling was that the villains didn't seem so formidable or mean or vicious as they did elsewhere. The *Yellow Peri* was certainly one of the least mean and vicious since her ill effects were (more or less) unintentional. However, this time we have the addition of her scheming husband to provide the meanness and viciousness. It's a good move because it means that Peri's problems won't be accidents any more. Alvin Grant is certainly a formidable and sneaky fellow and I look forward to *Peri* finding him out in one of those promised future appearances. But I do find it a bit hard to believe that a moneygrubber like him would marry her simply to win a bet (without knowing of her powers) and then *stay* married to her!

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ont. M9L 2R9

A moneygrubber like Alvin certainly wouldn't spend anything to get a lawyer to get a divorce, T.M. And don't forget the alimony payments!—BR

*****

Dear Editor:

A loose end in *ACTION* #559: I thoroughly enjoyed Gazook the Imp, who appeared in *SUPERBOY* #34 and 35 when the *Yellow Peri* first appeared. He apparently became a dog when Loretta lost the book. Why, when the book returned, did Gazook not also reappear? Come to think of it, why haven't we seen the dog?

JOHN C. BUNNELL
555 Winter St. NE, #206
Salem, OR 97301

E. Nelson Bridwell, upon reading the story in #559, remarked, "Oh, boy, I can't wait to see what happens when Alvin meets Gazook!" Come to think of it, I *can't wait either. So, now that I've finished scripting* SUPERMAN: THE SECRET YEARS *(our 4-issue mini-series that looks at* Superman's *college days—don't miss the first issue, on sale the first week in November—end of free plug!), I'll sit down with Julie and plot the return of the Yellow Peri for an upcoming issue. Okay? Okay!—BR*

*****

Dear Editor,

I was overjoyed with the return of the *Yellow Peri*. It was a super story. I really hate Loretta's husband, though; I hope she dumps him!

JEFFREY MITCHELL
Route 1, Box 164
Rush City, MN 55069

But if she dumps him, he'll never get to meet Gazook!—Bob Rozakis

DON'T WORRY, FOLKS-- I'LL DELIVER THIS MONSTER TO A FARAWAY PLANET WHERE HE'LL NEVER MENACE ANY-ONE AGAIN!

IN HIS CAREER...

SUPERMAN

HAS HAD MANY DANGEROUS ENCOUNTERS WITH EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL BEINGS! BUT IN THIS TALE, THE MAN OF STEEL MEETS AN ALIEN MENACE WHICH IS NEITHER AN ALIEN NOR A MENACE! IT'S ONLY--

"JIMMY OLSEN-- BLOB!"

GROAN!... HOW CAN I MAKE SUPERMAN REALIZE I'M NOT A MONSTER AT ALL-- BUT HIS BEST PAL?

DAILY PLANET

CRAIG BOLDMAN, WRITER * HOWARD BENDER, PENCILLER * PABLO MARCOS, INKER * MILT SNAPINN, LETTERER * ANTHONY TOLLIN, COLORIST * JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR

ANOTHER WORKDAY FOR THE STAFF OF THE DAILY PLANET IS WINDING TO A CLOSE...

HOLD THAT ELEVATOR, LOIS!

GOOD GRIEF, JIMMY! WHAT'S ALL THAT JUNK?

PUFF! PUFF!... THIS BOX OF "JUNK" IS FULL OF MUSEUM PIECES! THEY'RE TROPHIES OF MY ADVENTURES WITH SUPERMAN!

I'VE HAD THEM ON LOAN TO THE SUPERMAN MUSEUM FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, BUT TODAY THEY'RE COMING HOME!

WHAT'S THIS ONE?

DAILY PLANET

IT'S A SAMPLE OF ELASTIC SERUM FROM MY "ELASTIC LAD" DAYS!

I WAS A SUPER-HERO MYSELF ON OCCASION!

SO I'VE HEARD YOU MENTION!

THIS GLOWING PAPER-WEIGHT IS MADE OF A METAL FROM A BARREN PLANET CALLED *RAVAGER!*

ELAST

SUPERMAN PICKED IT UP FOR ME ON ONE OF HIS OUTER-SPACE EXCURSIONS!

AMONG THE OTHER TROPHIES ARE A PAIR OF ANTI-GRAVITY BOOTS FROM THE BOTTLE-CITY OF KANDOR...

...A BIZARRO-WORLD VERSION OF *THE DAILY PLANET*...

...AND A VOODOO DOLL I ONCE USED WHILE PRETENDING TO BE A WITCH DOCTOR!

DAILY HTRAE

TAXES GO DOWN! I AM HOPPING MAD!

QUITE A COLLECTION! WELL, GOOD NIGHT, JIMMY!

WHUFF! HERE'S THE LAST LOAD! I'D BETTER SHAKE A LEG! I'VE GOT A DATE WITH A GORGEOUS BABE IN AN HOUR!

HELP! HELP!

OHMIGOSH! A LITTLE KID LEANED TOO FAR OUT THE WINDOW! SHE'S GONNA FALL!

HELP! SAVE ME!

SHE'S GOT JUST ONE CHANCE! I HOPE THIS *ELASTIC SERUM* STILL WORKS! ;GLUG!;

;PEE-UU; IT TASTES AWFUL!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? INSTEAD OF BECOMING MY OLD STRETCHABLE SELF...

...I'M TURNING INTO A FORMLESS... *BLOB!*

BLOB OR NOT... I'VE GOT TO *SAVE* THAT KID!

OH, NO! SHE LET GO! MAYBE IF I CAN HUSTLE MY MAGS AND GET BENEATH HER...

AAAHH!

...I CAN CUSHION HER LANDING!

;OOF!;

I DID IT!

RAAAHR!

GOOD GRIEF! MY VOCAL CHORDS ARE ALL OUT OF WHACK! ALL I CAN DO IS MAKE-- *GROWLING* NOISES!

EEK!

;GASP!; A MONSTER! IT MUST'VE TRIED TO GRAB THAT LITTLE GIRL!

GET IT! KILL IT!

OW! WHAT A WAY TO TREAT A *HERO!*

WHAT LUCK! THERE'S LOIS! SHE'LL SEE MY CLOTHES LYING HERE AND PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER!

?

UNFORTUNATELY, LOIS' MATHEMATICS IN THIS CASE IS LESS THAN PERFECT...

THOSE CLOTHES!

;GASP!;

THAT MONSTER MUST HAVE-- EATEN JIMMY OLSEN!

I BETTER SPLIT! THESE DO-GOODERS ARE TURNING INTO AN ANGRY MOB--COMING AFTER ME!

GUESS I'M NOT A VERY FEARSOME-LOOKING "MONSTER"!

I COULDN'T HOPE TO LOSE THAT CROWD UP HERE, BUT IN MY WEIRD FORM, I CAN OOZE DOWN INTO THIS STORM DRAIN AND GIVE THEM THE SLIP!

IF ONLY I HADN'T LOST MY SIGNAL-WATCH WITH THE REST OF MY CLOTHES!

I SURE COULD USE SUPERMAN NOW!

AS JIMMY FOLLOWS THE DRAIN INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM, HE DISCOVERS--

--I'M GLOWING IN THE DARK! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

SLOSH!

HUH... SOMETHING ELSE IS SPLASHING AROUND DOWN HERE...

OMIGOSH! ALBINO ALLIGATORS! I'D ALWAYS HEARD STORIES ABOUT BEASTS LIKE THESE LIVING IN THE SEWERS!

IT'S TRUE-- AND I'M SUNK!

BUT TO JIMMY THE BLOB'S SURPRISE--

THE 'GATORS HAVE TURNED TAIL! THIS GLOW MUST'VE SPOOKED 'EM!

THOSE MONSTERS ARE AFRAID OF ME!

AFTER AN HOUR OF WANDERING THROUGH THE MAZE OF SEWERS, A DEJECTED JIMMY EMERGES...

HEY, I RECOGNIZE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! MINNIE, THE CUTE COOKIE I'M DATING TONIGHT, LIVES NEARBY! I COULD SURE USE AN UNDERSTANDING GIRL LIKE HER NOW!

WAIT! WHAT ARE THESE TWO GUYS UP TO?

HURRY UP, MAN!

RUDY YAP CAFE

HAVEN'TCHA GOT THAT BATTERY OUT YET? SOMEONE'S GONNA SPOT US FOR SURE!

ALMOST GOT IT, PAL O'MINE!

BATTERY THIEVES, EH?

COPS! WHAT A BREAK!

LOCK US UP! THROW US IN THE CRUISER! WE'RE PUNKS!

?

POLICE

RAAWR!

I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE USE OF THIS WEIRD FORM TO GIVE THESE TWO-BIT CREEPS A SCARE!

WAAAH! WE'RE DEAD MEN!

BLUB! RUN FOR IT!

HMM! THERE'S MINNIE'S APARTMENT. IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO GET A DATE WITH HER, BUT I'D BE A COMPLETE IDIOT TO TRY AND KEEP IT *NOW*!

HMM... THOSE FLOWERS! SHE'D *LOVE* THEM! SURE--WHY NOT!

AT THE WGBS-TV NEWSROOM, ANCHORMAN CLARK KENT IS ON A COMMERCIAL BREAK...

FAST-BREAKING STORY ABOUT A "MONSTER SIGHTING" IN THIS AREA, CLARK!

A *MONSTER*? AROUND HERE?

I'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT!

5

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! JIMMY OLSEN BADGERS ME INTO GOING OUT WITH HIM, AND THEN TURNS AROUND AND STANDS ME UP! WHAT A TWIT!

BZZ

AHH-- THERE'S THE DOORBELL!

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FRONT OF THE GALAXY BUILDING LOOKED ON AS A SMALL GIRL SQUIRMED FROM THE MONSTER'S GRASP!

YOU'RE AN HOUR LATE! WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

RAWR.

...THAT THE MONSTER MAY HAVE DEVOURED OLSEN, OR...

W-WAIT! WHAT'S HE SAYING? I-I-Y!!!! IT'S IT! HE'S HERE! IT'S--

OH, BROTHER! THIS IS THE CHICK THAT I THOUGHT WAS SO UNDER-STANDING?

Y!!!!!

THE DISCOVERY OF CLOTHING AND BELONG-INGS OF REPORTER JIMMY OLSEN HAS CAUSED SPECULATION...

...CLARK KENT FOR WGBS-TV, HOPING YOUR NEWS ISN'T BAD NEWS! THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT!

I CAN TAKE A HINT! I'LL SLITHER OUT THIS WINDOW--

UH-OH! POLICE OFFICERS AND ANOTHER MOB SCENE!

LOOKS LIKE WATERLOO FOR THIS BLOB!

THOSE PUNKS WEREN'T LYING! THERE'S THE MONSTER THAT ATE THE REPORTER!

HOLD IT, OFFICERS! THIS IS A JOB FOR *SUPERMAN!*

I EXAMINED THE CREATURE'S STRANGE AURA WITH MY SUPER-VISION! IT'S HARMLESS RADIATION THAT'S UNIQUE TO THE PLANET *RAVAGER!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE THING GOT HERE, BUT I'LL RETURN IT TO RAVAGER IN THIS SPECIAL CONTAINER I CONSTRUCTED! DON'T WORRY--IT WON'T HARM ANYONE ELSE!

OH, NO!

THANKS, SUPERMAN!

WITHIN INSTANTS, SUPERMAN AND HIS GELATINOUS CARGO ARE EN ROUTE TO A DISTANT WORLD...

;CHOKE!: WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD END LIKE THIS? DONE IN BY MY BEST BUDDY!

AND, ON THE SURFACE OF THE STRANGE PLANET...

THERE HE GOES! I FORGIVE YOU, PAL! YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.

AT LEAST THIS PLACE HAS AN ATMOSPHERE I CAN BREATHE!

WHAT A DAY! FIRST I TURN INTO AMOEBA BOY, THEN I GET EXILED TO ANOTHER PLANET, AND NOW IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!

ODD... THIS DOWNPOUR IS MAKING ME TINGLE!

I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE...

YIPPEE!

...I'M BECOMING...

...MY OLD SELF AGAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT, JIMMY! I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

"YOUR TROUBLES BEGAN IN THE SUPERMAN MUSEUM, WHERE YOUR ELASTIC FORMULA AND THE RAVAGER PAPERWEIGHT TROPHY SAT SIDE-BY-SIDE!

MOON ROCK

RAVAGER PAPERWEIGHT

ELASTIC LAD FORMULA

"OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THE OTHERWISE HARMLESS RAVAGER RADIATION CONTAMINATED THE UNIQUE ELEMENTS IN YOUR SERUM! THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT YOUR CHANGE!"

YEAH... I THOUGHT MY SERUM TASTED FUNNY!

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE REPORTS, I COMBED THE CITY FOR THE "MONSTER" WITH MY TELE-SCOPIC VISION!

YOU WERE IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER, SO I JUST KEPT AN EYE ON YOU UNTIL I FINISHED MY OTHER DUTIES--

--SUCH AS MY 6 O'CLOCK NEWSCAST AS CLARK KENT!

THEN YOU RESCUED ME FROM THE CROWD, EH? BUT WHY BRING ME HERE?

MY SUPER-SENSES IDENTIFIED ITS GLOWING AURA AS IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE PAPERWEIGHT TROPHY I GAVE YOU!

IT WAS EASY TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.

"I THEORIZED THAT I'D BE ABLE TO FIND AN ANTIDOTE FOR YOUR PROBLEM AT THE PLANET OF ITS ORIGIN!"

THE MINERALS IN THIS STREAM WILL COUNTERACT THE EFFECT OF THE RADIATION!

I'LL BLOW A SPRAY OVER JIMMY!

THAT'S ONE MORE I OWE YOU, CHUM! ER, SUPERMAN--

--I'D JUST AS SOON THAT PEOPLE NEVER KNOW THAT I WAS THAT BLOB!

I FIGURED NOT. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T LET ON WHO THE "MONSTER" REALLY WAS.

WHEN YOU SHOW UP ALIVE, LOIS AND THE OTHERS WILL BE HAPPY THAT THEY JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS ABOUT YOUR "FATE."

THAT SHOULD STRAIGHTEN OUT EVERYTHING... ER... EXCEPT FOR YOUR DATE WITH MINNIE!

NO PROBLEM! DID YOU SEE HER FREAK OUT AT THE SIGHT OF ONE LITTLE MONSTER!

I'VE RUN INTO MONSTERS, ALIENS, AND SUPER-VILLAINS EVER SINCE I GOT TO KNOW YOU! IT'S BECOME PART OF MY ROUTINE!

NOPE, SHE'S NOT THE ONE FOR ME!

A LADY'S GOT TO BE MADE OF STURDIER STUFF TO BE THE GIRL-FRIEND OF SUPERMAN'S PAL!

THE END